



2021 FOSTER YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Application process closes at 11:59pm on April 7, 2021

The Louisiana Institute for Children in Families (LICF) is proud to begin the 2021 application process for the Louisiana Foster Youth Intern Program.

Modeled after the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) Foster Youth Internship (FYI) Program®, the program offers young adults who spent time in Louisiana's foster care system the opportunity to share their experience with state policymakers in an effort to inspire legislative action.

The FYI Program interns are selected because they display both the interest and skills necessary to become effective advocates for change. Interns are given an inside look at Louisiana's legislative process and an opportunity to play an active role in developing state policy by working intimately with and testifying before specific legislative committees during the 2021 legislative session. Each intern will have the assistance of LICF Staff and Advisors in preparing their testimony.

The internship dates are **MAY 16 – MAY 21, 2021**, giving interns an invaluable one-week experience during the peak of the 2021 Regular Session.

Through the generosity of our Community Partners and donors, LICF will cover the cost of each intern's travel, housing, and general living expenses, as well as provide professional trainings, networking opportunities and a scholarship in the amount of **\$600**.

Below is a list of eligibility requirements. The applicant **MUST** be available for and commit to the entirety of the program to qualify, including any mandatory pre-FYI program zoom meetings.

****Eligibility** (*Applicants must meet ALL of the following eligibility criteria to be considered for a position in the program*)

1. Applicants **are expected** to have strong writing, grammar, and research skills.
2. Applicants **are required** to have a strong interest in improving child welfare policy.
3. Applicants **shall have spent a period of time in foster care** during some point of their lives and be willing to share their experiences to raise awareness and effect change. Applicants who spent at least 24 months in care will be given priority.
4. Applicants **are required** to have completed the Fall 2020 or Spring 2021 semester at an accredited institution of higher learning, such as a college, university, or vocational school by the start of the internship (May 17, 2021).



5. Applicants **are required** to arrive in Baton Rouge, LA, on SUNDAY, May 16, 2021; remain in Baton Rouge for the **entire** duration of the program (May 17 - May 21, 2021); and participate in **all** mandatory weekend and evening events. Because of the unique group dynamic, as well as important orientations, training, and end-of-program events, selected participants **will not** be allowed to arrive at the FYI Program late or leave early. Those considering applying for the 2021 FYI Program with known conflicts with the program dates are encouraged to apply the following year.
6. Applicants **are required** to submit an application by **APRIL 7, 2021 at 11:59pm.**

To be considered for the 2021 Louisiana FYI Program, applicants must complete the application and submit ALL required documentation on our website:

<https://louisianaicf.org/2021fyi>

Please pay close attention to the following explanations:

- **ONE PAGE RÉSUMÉ.** Be sure to include work experience, school and community involvement, and dates of employment. **Do not** submit more than one page.
- **ESSAY.** Essays **must be double-spaced, use 12 point Times New Roman font, use proper spelling and grammar, and pages must be numbered.** Your essay must include all three of the following: (1) how your life experiences have shaped your interest in and skills for this internship program (2) how this experience fits with your goals and future aspirations, and (3) legislative changes you would want to make to the child welfare system at the federal level based on what you have seen and your experiences. For example, how would you improve foster care for current and future foster youth? Supporting research is *required*, and applicants **must cite sources in the MLA or APA format. Do not submit more than 4 pages; only the first 4 pages will be considered. ALL essay guidelines must be followed.**
- **SHORT RESPONSE QUESTIONS.** Answer each of the following questions in 150 words or less per question through the website application:
 1. Describe a time when your mood affected your performance at work or school, either in a negative or positive way.
 2. Describe a conflict you had with a peer or supervisor. How was conflict resolved?
 3. How would you describe your behavior in a social setting? What setting brings out your best qualities?
- **ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPT.** The transcript must be the most current from your current or most recent institution of higher learning.



- **ONE LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION** These should be references from a professor, faculty member, neighbor, coach, mentor, advisor, etc.

Only letters submitted *directly by the recommender* to contact@louisianaicf.org will be considered. **It is the applicant's responsibility to confirm with the recommenders that they have emailed the letters and forms to LICF.** Allow plenty of time for the recommender to write the letter, as well as time to follow up with them to ensure LICF has confirmed receipt of their letter.

For quick reference, here is a recap of the information provided:

1. 2021 FYI Program Dates: **May 16 a- May 21, 2021;**
2. Location of FYI Program: **Baton Rouge, Louisiana;**
3. Arrival date for program: **Sunday, May 16, 2021;**
4. Accepted Applicants will be notified by: **Monday, April 12, 2021;**
5. Scholarship amount awarded to 2021 Interns: **\$600 per Intern.**
6. Application Deadline: **April 7, 2021 at 11:59pm;**

Please visit www.louisianaicf.org for more information on the FYI Program.

If you have questions after carefully reviewing this application and the information available on LICF's website about the Foster Youth Internship Program®, please contact us by email at contact@louisianaicf.org.